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The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Promotion and protection of human rights

Identical letters dated 11 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

The occupying Israeli authorities intend to hold elections on 15 October 2018 for so-called local councils in the occupied Syrian Golan villages of Majdal Shams, Buq'ata, Mas'adah, Ayn Quniyah and Ghajar, in flagrant violation of all relevant United Nations resolutions and the Geneva Conventions concerning territories under the administration of an occupying Power, and contrary to the desire and will of the Syrian Arab population living in the occupied Syrian territories.

Those actions by the occupying Israeli authorities are aimed at implementing their colonialist and racist projects to Judaize the occupied Syrian Golan and an attempt to legalize and consolidate their occupation and apply Israeli law in the occupied Syrian Golan, in clear violation of Security Council resolution 497 (1981), wherein the Council considers the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Golan is null and void and without international legal effect.

The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that the occupied Syrian Golan is an integral part of its territory and that it will strive, by all available ways and means, to return that occupied territory to the homeland, sooner or later. It also reaffirms it supports for Syrian Arab citizens as they resist Israeli occupation and reject these elections and the decision to incorporate the Syrian Arab Golan into the occupying State.

Moreover, the Government and the people of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirm that they utterly reject and absolutely condemn this hostile and reckless action. The

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Syrian Arab Republic calls upon all diplomatic missions and international organizations to clearly reject these flagrant Israeli violations of international law and norms, the Charter of the United Nations, the Fourth Geneva Convention and Security Council resolutions.

Syria calls upon the Security Council to act urgently and compel Israel to withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan and halt its oppression of our people in the occupied Syrian Golan and its illegal settlement policies, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981). Israel must also be compelled to stop providing any form of material and moral support to armed terrorist gangs in Syria and to end its policy of holding in contempt international law and the international community.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38, 55 and 74, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative